



December 8, 2010

U.S. Department of Justice  
FARA Registration Unit  
1400 New York Avenue NW  
Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20005

To whom it may concern:

Attached is information that has been disseminated by the Podesta Group (Registrant No. 5926) on behalf of our client, the National Security Council of Georgia.

MSD/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT  
2010 DEC -8 AM 11:40

## Alex Stapleton

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**From:** John Anderson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 07, 2010 8:29 AM  
**To:** John Anderson  
**Subject:** Arrests for Georgian Bombings  
**Attachments:** Explosionsfacts.doc

Greetings all. I'm sure you are watching the arrests unfolding over the bombings in Georgia. Here, on background – not to be quoted, except for Saaka's statement and the attachment -- is some context that I hope you will find helpful.

The government is trying hard not to link this to Russian leadership in Moscow. Eka Z. was careful in her press conference to note that the bombers were organized by a representative of the Russian military—but he was not necessarily acting on orders from on high. However, this nuance has been lost in some of the early reporting about "Georgia accuses Russia." So please note:

- The government has formally requested the assistance of the Russian government to investigate the incidents—and that it is not presuming that this anyone was acting on political orders from Moscow.
- President Saakashvili is very intentionally not using this incident to denounce Moscow, and in fact is trying to defuse tensions. This posture builds on Georgia's effort, highlighted by the President's recent no first use of force pledge, to seek a more constructive relationship with Russia.
- Below is Saakashvili's statement on the arrests:

"The Georgian police detained a group of suspects charged with committing very serious crimes, who are accused of implementing a couple of very dangerous acts – specifically, exploding the Georgian railways, the surrounding area of the US Embassy in Georgia, and the front side of the office of one of the political parties a little ago, which was followed by casualty. All signs currently in possession of our law enforcement agencies suggest that these individuals were acting from the occupied territories.

"After their detention, on the basis of the uncovered evidence and the existing preliminary versions - certainly, their guilt has to be still established by due process of law - we have managed to avert serious terrorist acts, which were prepared, and for which they have received instructions and explosive materials. I would like to thank our law enforcement agencies, our police, for prompt response and I would like to call on them to further intensify their efforts."

- Attached is a fact sheet (bombing facts) from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It is a fact sheet, not a statement.

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*This email was sent by The Podesta Group, which provides representation for the country of Georgia. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.*

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The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia identified several persons as suspects in organizing, carrying out and participating in the series of explosions that took place on the territory of Georgia in September-November 2010.

In the result of the investigation, on 4 December 2010, the following persons were detained:

1. **Gogita Arkania** (born in 1979) – main perpetrator, former military officer;
2. **Joni Abuladze** (born in 1982) – accomplice, stored and transported explosive materials;
3. **Mariam Nikolava** (born in 1977) – accomplice, stored and transported explosive materials;
4. **Gocha Khurtsilava** (born in 1985) – accomplice, driver;
5. **Goderdzi Arkania** (born in 1978) – accomplice;
6. **Lela Khurtsilava** (born in 1983) – accomplice.

In addition, the following suspects, currently hiding in the district of Gali (occupied Abkhazia region), are wanted by the police:

1. **Merab Kolbaia**, nicknamed “Kochoia” (born in 1979) – organizer and perpetrator;
2. **Mukhran Tskhadaia** (born in 1962) – organizer and perpetrator (wanted by the police since 2003 for kidnapping a person).

The investigation found out that detained **Gogita Arkania** and fugitive **Merab Kolbaia** committed the following crimes:

1. 28 November, 2010 – explosion on Javakhishvili St. no. 88 in Tbilisi, near the Labour Party headquarters, in the result of which local resident Nino Gordeziani was killed;
2. 28 November, 2010 – explosion near a supermarket on Noneshvili St. no. 13 in Mukhiani district of Tbilisi;
3. 22 September, 2010 – explosion near US Embassy in Tbilisi;
4. 21 October, 2010 – two explosions near Tbilisi Central Railway Station;
5. 2 October, 2010 – failed attempt of explosion near the railway bridge in village Tchaladidi of Khobi district, Samegrelo region (Western Georgia, close to occupation line NDLR).

The Ministry of Internal Affairs searched the house of **Joni Abuladze**, accomplice of **Arkania** and **Kolbaia**, and found 13 explosive devices, including 9 cans filled with

hexogen, out of which 4 had nails inside and 1 contained bullets as well. In total, 10 kilograms of hexogen were discovered.

According to the testimony of **Gogita Arkania**, he, together with **Merab Kolbaia**, was recruited and instructed to carry out explosions in Tbilisi and other regions of Georgia by active Russian Major **Evgeni Borisov**, currently serving on the Russian occupied territory of Abkhazia. According to the information of the MIA of Georgia, before the Russia-Georgia war of August 2008, **Borisov** nominally served as deputy head of the “southern headquarters” of the CIS Collective Peacekeeping Forces in Abkhazia and was suspected for long to be an undercover agent of Russian Military Intelligence (GRU).

His name was also known to EUMM as he was the main contact point for the IPRM hotline in Abkhazia from September 2009 till October 2010, which is confirmed by EUMM.

The investigation found out that **Borisov** met **Arkania** and **Kolbaia** several times on the territory of the Russian occupied Gali district, supplied them with ready-made explosive devices which were equipped with time mechanisms and gave them detailed instructions on the targets and timing of the explosions. **Borisov** also paid money to **Arkania** and **Kolbaia** following the succesful detonation of bombs.

While preparing for and carrying out the explosions, **Arkania** maintained intensive telephone communications with a Russian mobile phone number registered on the Russian Ministry of Defense (Russian mobile company Amobile).

This is shown by the records of his incoming and outcoming calls as shown below:

**Explosion near the US Embassy in Tbilisi 22.09.2010**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Call Initiator</b>	<b>Call Receiver</b>
18.09.2010 23:25:48	79407147883	858210894
18.09.2010 23:26:41	79407147883	858210894
19.09.2010 08:16:05	79407147883	858210894

22.09.2010 10:28:05	79407147883	858210894
24.09.2010 12:20:00	79407147883	858210894
25.09.2010 09:54:39	79407147883	858210894

**Bomb near Chaladidi bridge 02.10.2010**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Call Initiator</b>	<b>Call Receiver</b>
08.11.2010 19:26:35	79407147883	858210894
08.11.2010 20:11:20	79407147883	858210894
08.11.2010 20:20:50	79407147883	858210894
15.11.2010 21:59:25	79407147883	858210894
17.11.2010 18:10:48	79407147883	858210894
22.11.2010 20:37:36	79407147883	858210894

**Explosion near the central railway station in Tbilisi  
21.10.2010**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Call Initiator</b>	<b>Call Receiver</b>
19.10.2010 20:32:07 wT	79407147883	858210894
20.10.2010 07:56:28 wT	79407147883	858210894

22.10.2010 19:26:37 wT	79407147883	858210894
23.10.2010 08:36:15 wT	79407147883	858210894
23.10.2010 13:55:05 wT	79407147883	858210894

**Explosion near the Labour Party office in Tbilisi  
28.11.2010**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Call Initiator</b>	<b>Call Receiver</b>
03.10.2010 11:14:09	79407147883	858210894
03.10.2010 11:18:08	79407147883	858210894
03.10.2010 14:19:26	79407147883	858210894
03.10.2010 17:17:08	79407147883	858210894
03.10.2010 17:30:06	79407147883	858210894
08.10.2010 07:26:10	79407147883	858210894
08.10.2010 08:56:43	79407147883	858210894

The October 2nd failed railway explosion deserves additional attention.

On October 3rd, at 09:30 am, the morning after **Arkania** and **Kolbaia** placed a bomb near Chaladidi bridge in Khobi district of Georgia, which did not to explode due to failure in detonation mechanism, IPRM hotline holder in Abkhazia Russian Lieut. Col. **Aleksander Berchenko** contacted EUMM and asked about information regarding an alleged train accident in Georgia. According to him, persons who were crossing the

Abkhazian administrative boundary line informed him that on the railway section between Senaki and Poti an accident occurred with human casualties (Chaladidi bridge is actually located between Senaki and Poti).

EUMM contacted then the MIA of Georgia asking for informations on an alleged explosion on the railway between Senaki and Poti. MIA checked and denied this explosion.

On October 7th, local population noticed an explosive device near Chaladidi bridge and the Georgian special police team successfully demined it. When it was made public that a non-exploded bomb was found there, EUMM contacted again MIA reminding them on the call received on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Please find bellow the fragment of the EUMM "Hotline log 2010" containing the inquires, made by RU AF to ABK via Hotline on the 3rd of October 2010. The person, calling EUMM Hotline number that day, was Lieut.Col. Berchenko Aleksander:

120

3/09/10

9:30

RU AF hotline holder in ABH contacted EUMM and asked about information regarding alleged train accident happened in Georgia. According to him persons who were commuting across ABL informed that on the railroad between SENAKI and POTI railway accident occurred with human casualties. RU AF Hotline holder asked to pass to GEO side information that RU are ready to provide any assistance.

GEO MiA and FOZ were contacted. Both made enquiry in issue and denied any railway incident. Information was passed to RU Hotline holder.

The name of the "Jevgenij Borisov" was known by the EUMM Hotline holders since September 2009, when that name was introduced as a replacement of the previous contact person Andrej Petrishenko. Jevgenij Borisov was the main contact point for the Hotline in ABK for the period from the September 2009 till the October 2010, when he was replaced by Jurij

Shilov.